



**Whoever wants
to become great
must be a servant**

**The
Messenger**

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE CONFERENCE
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Reproducing the new testament **church** through **Church Leadership**

Michael Plett



BEFORE Jesus returned to heaven He gave clear instructions about what He would be doing on earth. Listen to His words to Peter: “I will build My church, and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18). Jesus is building his church, and He does so partly through leaders.

He passed on the mission: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matt. 28:19–20).

The disciples went to work, and Acts records how they carried out their assignment. In each city, in what some call the “Pauline cycle,” this team repeated a pattern: *Evangelize*: They preached the message and gathered converts into local churches. *Establish*: They grounded new believers in the faith’s essentials. *Equip*: They appointed and equipped godly leaders to guide and teach the church. *Expand*: Churches sent others to preach the message and start new churches (Rowland Forman, *The Leadership Baton*, p. 23).

Their strategy was not just to multiply converts, but local churches. In local churches new believers were established in the faith and equipped to serve and lead. These churches sent

out leaders to start new churches. Local churches were the leadership incubators moving at an incredible rate, from a single church in Jerusalem to thousands of churches in a few 100 years.

What did leadership look like?

For the church to function as a godly community, God has gifted some to be apostles, evangelists, pastors, teachers, bishops, elders, and deacons. People are appointed to serve the body of Christ so that the community can be built up and protected. These ministries create the leadership systems of local churches.

The New Testament does not prescribe one particular leadership system to fit all churches. Needs and circumstances call for different forms of leadership. All churches had leaders, but with various degrees of visibility. Jerusalem had apostles. Philippi had overseers and deacons. Paul established deacons in the Ephesian church, yet they do not seem to be present in churches at Crete. In both Ephesus and Crete, candidates met strict standards to qualify as elders, while elsewhere standards are not talked about.

Despite differences, spiritual leadership in the New Testament includes three features to remain constant for all churches.

Servant leadership

Jesus summarized leadership in Mark 10:44–45: “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” Someone asked Lorne Sanny how it is possible to know whether one functions as a servant. Sanny replied, “By the way you react when people treat you like one.”



Jesus summarized leadership in Mark 10:44–45: “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant”...Someone asked Lorne Sanny how it is possible to know whether one functions as a servant. Sanny replied, “By the way you react when people treat you like one.”

Blend character and gifts

Spiritual leadership blends natural and spiritual qualities. Are leaders born or made? Both. Leadership is given by God and yet skills can be cultivated and developed. From birth we possess skills that qualify or disqualify us from certain tasks. Our job is to serve and in the process, often where we feel unqualified, we discover God's empowerment.

While reminding Timothy to set an example of godly living and communicating God's word, Paul urges him to focus on his gifts and develop in those areas (1 Tim. 4:14–15). Developing gifts is important. Any Christian leader placed in a management role who does not develop that ability is like a minister who has the gift for preaching, but does not open a book for sermon preparation.

Though it is hard to believe, God is not more impressed with talent than by character (1 Peter 5:2–7). The Bible calls Christ followers to have a character beyond reproach. Leaders are called to this.

And perhaps no characteristic is more central to the heart of God than humility. It is "not by might or by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord (Zech. 4:6). Not by cunning or seasoned leadership, great vision casting or spellbinding charisma, not by great management or finely-tuned organizational structures—it is "by my Spirit, says the Lord."

Be reminded of Paul's words, "When I came to you...my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit's power" (1 Cor. 2:1, 4). We cannot advance the purposes of God in our own flesh no matter how developed and skillful we are as leaders. It's God's power that changes a human heart, that equips, renews, or frees people.

Use plural leadership

In the New Testament, church

leadership is a collective ministry. Even when the term "leader" is used in Christian community (Heb 13:7, 17), it is plural. Leadership functions described there are consistently plural. Not all churches had bishops or overseers, but those who did had several.

Church leadership is about shared power. Worldly leadership tends to centre on grasping, retaining, and using power, but that thinking runs counter to biblical leadership. Because of checks and balances, a group of leaders is less likely to get corrupted and to take away the community's authority. Therefore, for Christian communities the best leadership is team leadership (Gilbert Bilezikian, *Community 101*, pp. 163-165).

It's no secret that one of the biggest needs in the church is well-equipped leadership.

Jesus and Paul invested their lives in a few key leaders. Both drew people around them to pass the baton of leadership. Both effectively mentored emerging leaders in ministry.

I believe the local church by design is the most effective incubator of spiritual leaders. Some of the best soil to grow leaders is in our backyards, in our own congregations. Just as a plant needs good conditions and soil, leaders need the right environment to emerge and grow in our congregations. That involves three elements.

Build community

In community, we first need to see the potential in people—to look beyond the actual, to someone's potential. If you are a



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(Becky Buhler)

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leader, at some point someone saw you that way and gave you an opportunity. That person believed in you probably more than you believed in yourself.

Leadership training begins in childhood. We need to train and recognize leadership ability from a young age. Do we see children in our churches as the leaders and pastors of the future?

We need to tear down the idol of excellence. An emphasis on excellence can cancel leadership development. Rick Warren has said, “If you want to build an equipping church, you have to tear down the idol of excellence. Why? Because most people are not excellent; most people are not extraordinary. Most people are ordinary. If you’re going to do ministry through ordinary people, you have to give up the notion of excellence” (Rowland Forman, *The Leadership Baton*, p. 34).

Our goal should not be to find the best leaders for our church and conference, but to train those whom God has sent our way. We are to raise the health of our churches by raising and training our own.

Cultivate biblical wisdom

A one-liner says, “Courses don’t train leaders, people do.” It sounds right until your strategy includes cultivating biblical wisdom as an important goal for your leaders. If your aim is to produce Christian leaders who think wisely and well, courses that encourage theological reflection from an Anabaptist perspective are essential.

We need places where leaders can develop their understanding of Scripture and cultivate wisdom, character, and ministry skills. In our conference we have Steinbach Bible College that is providing excellent leadership training. It is implementing a program to allow lay leaders with homes and jobs to train on a part-time

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basis in study and service. We are part of the Evangelical Anabaptist Seminary in Winnipeg. Seasoned ministers in our churches need to be tapped for their experience and wisdom.

To train leaders, we need to get behind our institutions and our lay leaders—to not only to elect them, but to invest financially in their training, maybe even cover time off from work.

Mentor spiritually

Companies spend hundreds of millions of dollars trying to do leadership development consistently and effectively. Jesus said, I’ll show you how to do it: Select the right people and invest massive amounts of yourself into them. Keep them around you 24-7. If they do something wrong, tell them what they did wrong and how they can do it right. Coach them for better performance and gradually release and empower them for their own ministry. Jesus had that figured 2,000 years ago.

Leaders have the responsibility, the privilege, to mentor—to have encouraging spiritual friendships with those around them. Paul told Timothy: “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others” (2 Tim. 2:2). Our job is to pass on the baton of leadership, investing in others in a purposeful way.

If you are a local church leader, you are in a relay race. Jesus handed the baton to His disciples. He gave them their mission and they ran a good race. Passing a baton is just as important as running a good race.

Christianity is just one generation away from extinction. So is your church and mine. Jesus’ mission has always depended on one generation of leaders handing the mission to the next. Where they have done so effectively, their churches and ministries have continued to thrive. ❏

The grace to move past our failures

HOW do we cope when, in our own eyes, we fail?

Years ago Martin Luther believed in God, but he struggled to believe that God could be gracious to *him*. Luther thought like a lawyer, trained as a monk, wore out the person to whom he confessed his sins, studied Scripture thoroughly, and came to a surprising conclusion that, at first, he could scarcely believe: God could forgive *him*.

God “justifies the ungodly” (Rom. 4:5). In other words, God can forgive those of us who think we are unforgivable. Christ the shepherd invites the black sheep into his fold!

Yet coming to this realization isn’t simple; it’s a journey.

As a student hospital chaplain, I was told that each of us has three ways of relating God and life: What we say publicly, what we hold privately, and what we function on. That’s complicated!

Publicly we might say that we become right with God by grace, his unmerited kindness and favour received as a gift. Privately, we might

say that God only forgives good Christians. And in our daily life we might always be busy, working hard to earn God’s favour.

But what if our good never seems to be good enough? Or our circumstances change? Or our health gives way so we can’t do as much?

What if we don’t achieve some of the goals we set in life? All the travelling motivational speakers to the contrary, what if we try hard and yet our dream eludes us? (No matter how many Olympic athletes worked hard for a gold medal, few returned with the prize.)

Perhaps here Christ and his word *grace* that the Christian Church speaks of, sometimes glibly, can become more precious.

We need Christ’s help in life; He is the One who has absorbed and removed our failures through his reconciling death on the Cross. It’s complicated to move beyond our failures to begin to rest in a favour and forgiveness that we do not have, and cannot, earn.

Yet Luther was surprised to find that Christ is gracious. Perhaps you will be surprised too. ❧

Terry M. Smith

Learning from *Ten Lost Years*

EVER read *Ten Lost Years*, Barry Broadfoot’s book on the Great Depression? The book compiles stories of life in Canada from 1929 to 1939.

Scattered within are stories touching on the Christian faith—some of them disturbing. A woman gives to a Roman Catholic church only to have the priest use the money to drink wine; meanwhile, she walks barefoot to Mass, lest her shoes wear out. It didn’t bring her son closer to the church.



During the Depression, Abe Fehr and family moved to the Peace River region of Alberta before returning to Hague, Sask.

Glenbow Institute, used by permission

A mother thinks it is wrong to accept charity because it conflicts with her trust in God, yet her children are hungry. The son who tells the story doesn’t show any personal faith.

One congregation (likely United or Presbyterian) holds a White Gift Sunday, a day of presents for charity; the elders discover that many of the wrapped gifts are empty. They realize how needy people are within their congregation.

An on-going challenge for the Christian Church is to respond to people who are hurt by it—whether caused by improper actions, bad teaching, or ignorance.

Within the Great Depression there were also many stories of the Church’s faithfulness, of helpful beliefs, and of practical help for others. There are many such stories in the Church today.

But to help people move toward such stories, and to find the help that Christ offers, we need to hear their painful experiences. They can be of tough times of a generation ago or today. The Church can learn and grow from this. ❧

Terry M. Smith

The Messenger



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Paraguay

Communicators learn to talk to each other

Radio Mensajero was in charge of planning, organizing and hosting the annual ACCP communicators' retreat at Lucero Camp on May 21 to 23. This includes staff, committee members and their families from Radio ZP-30, Radio and TV OBEDIRA, Trans World Radio, Radio Alternativa and our ministry.

Unfortunately, it rained heavily on Friday. Because of bad roads one group went by ferry, while we organized 4x4s from Tres Palmas friends to get another busload from the highway. Eventually, everyone arrived and our program started about 90 minutes late. Rains affected more of the weekend, especially the outdoor sports activities, but this gave more time for relaxing and visiting.

On Saturday afternoon, TransWorld Radio representatives came with seven women from the U.S. on a mission exposure tour. They are with Project Hannah, a worldwide ministry to women.

The founder Marli Spiecker held a workshop that was well attended and appreciated.

The ladies also held special activities with kids.

For the program, we had ice-breaker/integration games, praise and worship, group choreography, and a speaker.

We also heard and saw reports from the different ministries. OBEDIRA recently acquired a TV station in Asuncion, which brings with it a lot of possibilities and challenges. At the end of our last meeting, we had a special time of prayer for each other as co-workers and for the ministries as a whole.

Our speaker was Ernesto Pinto, who with Family Life Network (Winnipeg) produces a popular Spanish program that addresses issues relating to Latin American families. He encouraged us to work on relationships, faithfulness and integrity within the most basic church unit—which is our own family—using examples from the lives of Joshua and Noah.

In another session, Ernesto spoke about our vision and seeing

the needs around us, being sensitive to them, and being faithful to the work God has called us to. We are to be willing to make personal sacrifices for the sake of other's salvation and well-being, taking the example of Nehemiah. He held a workshop on producing radio programs.

In spite of the weather, the Lord blessed the 100-plus adult participants; the response was positive. It's an encouragement to know others who are working in similar ministries, and to build friendships and to pray and play together.

We look forward to the retreat next year, which is to be in the south under the direction of Radio Alternativa; unfortunately, they could not make it to this year's retreat.

Chris Kroeker



Ernesto Pinto, Family Life Network, was our main speaker.



Trans World Radio program producers share about their new Spanish youth program.



Erna Plett (left) translates for Project Hannah founder Marli Spiecker.



The sessions took place in the Lucero Camp chapel.



Doris Friesen serves another great meal.

VBS in Picture Butte

The church plant in Picture Butte, Alta., is well on its way and making leaps and bounds every day. The spiritual growth witnessed in many people is remarkable and exciting to see. Although it is wonderful to see adults express an apparent interest in Christ and His Word, it is also encouraging to see the many children who are curious as well.

To help feed this spiritual hunger, Abe and Anna Bueckert, along with a few other couples from Picture Butte and High Level, organized and held a Vacation Bible School from July 19–23 at the Picture Butte Community Centre.

The turnout was tremendous, greater than hoped for such a small community. The first night saw 35 children and young teens come out to enjoy this event, which included singing, Bible stories, sports, crafts and snacks. Numbers continued to rise every evening, leaving workers more encouraged each night. Thursday night saw 58 children attending, the largest attendance all week. At the end of the week, a total of 59 children were registered.



Children sing during the evening opening session of VBS.



VBS leaders: (back) Henry Krahn, Abe Bueckert, John Wiebe, Abe Martens, (middle) Anna Bueckert, Mary Wiebe, Helena Martens, (front) Landis Krahn and Desiree Krahn.

The theme for Picture Butte VBS was *The Wordless Book*. The children learned the story of salvation through five different colours: gold, black, red, white and green. Each colour was accompanied with a different Bible verse and gave assurance that if they personally acknowledged their sinful nature and asked Jesus for forgiveness and a place in their hearts, they would never really die but live forever through salvation in Jesus Christ.

Although intended specifically for children age five to 13, many younger and older children came out, and many parents were also ministered to through these simple children's stories and songs. It was a blessing to minister to them right

along with their children. Seeds were planted in many hearts and hopefully they will grow.

Many people have been praying for the work being done in Picture Butte. Abe and Anna would like to express gratitude for those who prayed for them and their ministry in this community. Tremendous growth has been witnessed already in the lives of many people; this is encouraging to see. Please continue to pray for this church plant as there is still much to do and many lives to be saved.

As one of the children's favourite VBS songs states, "Isn't Jesus our Lord Wonderful?"

Desiree Krahn



ON MAY 7 EMC and EMMC representatives met with Tim Lind and Pakisa Tshimika of the Global Gift Sharing program, Mennonite World Conference, at the Steinbach EM Church. The program is designed to help Anabaptists of various conferences and continents to strengthen each other by sharing of their strengths, gifts, and vision.

(Becky Buhler)

coming events

Oct. 15–16
Southeastern Manitoba
Christian Education
Convention
*Teaching for Spiritual
Growth*

Dr. Perry Downs, TEDS
Providence College and
Theological Seminary
Otterburne, Man.
Phone: 204-433-7488
www.prov.ca

Oct. 16
Church Finance
Seminar
Aylmer EMMC
Aylmer, Ont.
Phone: 204-326-6401

Oct. 30
Church Finance
Seminar
Morrow Gospel Church
Winnipeg, Man.
Phone: 204-326-6401

Oct. 15–17
EMC Youth Leaders
Retreat
Speaker: Jim Harms
Pinawa, Man.
Phone: 204-326-6401

Nov. 12–13
Christians Responding
to HIV/AIDS in Africa
Dr. Allen Ronald
Calvary Temple
Winnipeg, Man.
Phone: 204-452-1374
204-895-0608

Celebrating 25 years at EFC

Steinbach EFC: *Celebrating* is the word to describe what we did on June 13. What were we celebrating? Twenty-five years of God's faithfulness to us at EFC.

We wanted to celebrate with the community in which we serve, so we decided to throw a big church-style picnic right in our front yard. We fired up the barbecues and hauled in the drinks, chips, and all that good stuff that goes with a barbecue.

Then for the many children (the age of a child being open to interpretation) we set up bouncers, face painting, clowns and games.

What else could we add to this day? Music. First to hit the stage was Heaven's Jubilee, followed by Mike Koop (a member from years back), then came Southern Country Gospel, and ended with Hollis Brown. There was music for everyone.

There was no program. It was just an informal day of fellowshiping as we celebrated what God has done and is doing among his children.

Throughout the day I heard snippets of conversation regarding what a great day this was (weather notwithstanding) and that our church picnic should always be held at the church, with the community invited. Maybe we have begun a new tradition as we seek to reach out to those around us.

Diane Koop



Pastor Mo Friesen took the plunge.

Face painting was among the day's activities.



On June 13 the Evangelical Fellowship Church invited the community to its 25th anniversary celebration.

Steinbach EMC holds summer kids' club



Summer Kids Club (VBS) was held from August 9–13, with 96 kids registered. Money was raised for over 145 Bibles to be distributed to children in northern Manitoba, and food was collected for our local food bank. The closing program was held on Friday evening.

Dave K. Schellenberg

MacGregor active and growing

MacGregor, Man.: September began another session for our youth. Together our new youth pastor Peter Moore and the youth had visions of missions. After much discussion and prayer they decided they would go on a missions trip to Mexico. So began the hours of fundraising—raking, washing walls, cleaning up bushes, cleaning vehicles, cleaning the church, and the list goes on.

We were also favored with a few special meals at church. The trip was planned and executed during spring break. Peter Moore, Amy Plett, Ron Sawatzky and 10 youth headed out in a rented van for San Carlos, Mexico.

Once there they met with Brenda Rushton who gave them their instructions. They were to build walls for a house for an elderly lady and her grandchildren. Work began, and then again after a slight mishap when a wall let go. The youth spent time singing, some skits and worshipping with Mexican people. Reports were all good, and we believe they were blessed by the experience.

In January, Jerry Plett, our pastor for the past 14 years, informed us that he would be leaving at the end of August. It will be a sad day when we have to say our goodbyes. Jerry and Phyllis, Alicia, Amy and Jana will always have a special place in our hearts.

April 25 was a day of rejoicing as we welcomed six believers into our church: Victor and Kim Bueckert, Darrell Dailey, Ryan Rempel and Garnet Hodge joined by baptism; Garnet's wife Tracy transferred her membership. The angels joined with our congregation as these believers publicly committed them-

selves to serve God and to be a part of our congregation.

On May 9 three of our young families entrusted themselves to raising their children to serve God. They are Len and Pam Braun with their son Jake, Bob and Jennifer Olive and their daughter Raquel, and Adam and Rochelle Young with their son Damian.

As time moves on changes happen, new people come and more deacons are needed. On May 30 we had a special commissioning service for Dan and Sandra Sawatzky, where they were warmly welcomed into public service for God. Wayne Unrau, Sandra Sawatzky, and Harold Giesbrecht supplied special music.

On July 11 we held a potluck lunch and appreciation for Jake and Agatha Friesen, who had held the position of deacon for many years and were now moving on to serve God in other areas.

Our Shower Committee has been busy the past few months with many baby showers as well as bridal showers. It is a joy to see the growth. May God continue to bless us as we strive to serve Him!

Elizabeth Sawatzky



Sandra and Dan Sawatzky (right) were commissioned as deacons. Jerry and Phyllis Plett stand with them.



Parent-child dedication May 9: Rochelle and Adam Young holding Damian, Jennifer and Bob Olive holding Raquel, and Pam and Len Braun holding Jake.

EMC post-secondary student luncheons

University of Manitoba

Tuesday, October 26
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Room 224A-C University Centre

Canadian Mennonite University

Wednesday, October 27
Noon - 1:00 p.m.
Room C-11 South Campus

For more information, contact
Gerald Reimer, 204-326-6401,
emcger@mts.net.

Lord, help!

Help!
I'm in a difficult situation.
I know You are hearing me.
I know You are helping me.
Because You are God,
My God.
And you tell us
In Your Word
That You will hear us
That You will help us
Why,
You even say,
"Before they call I will answer!"

Laura Plett Siemens

Senior pastor ordained

Leamington, Ont.: Spring and summer have proven busy months for us at Leamington EMC.

On April 18, we had an ordination service for senior pastor George Remple. EMC Conference Pastor David Thiessen served us with the morning message and presided over the ordination. We rejoiced with George and Betty to have their friends Gordon and Marilynn Foster travel from Fort Vermilion, Alta., for this occasion. Gordon brought greetings and words of encouragement from Remples' previous church, La Crete Christian Fellowship, and shared in the ordination prayer.

May 12-16 we were privileged to have Mel Koop come from Steinbach, Man., for a series of evening services

on the topic of marriage and family relationships.

The morning of June 6 was filled with excitement for eight baptism candidates and one person transferring membership, as well as the many family members and friends filling the sanctuary to capacity. They shared their testimonies and then were baptized upon their confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. Later that afternoon, we had the wonderful joy of partaking in a communion service with



George Remple, with wife Betty, was ordained April 18. David Thiessen (left) officiated. John and Sara Bartsch, Andy and Margaret Fehr and Gordon and Marilynn Foster stand with them.

these new members. As a family of God, we remembered the shed blood and broken body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The beginning of July brought the return of one of our members, Eva Wiebe, who spent the last year in an Asian country. It has been a blessing to have her home again and to learn of her experiences in a foreign culture and country.

LEMCO is currently offering an early morning Low German service followed by an English service at 10:30 a.m. Through this, we are attempting to meet the needs of a diverse cultural community. We seek the prayers of our brothers and sisters on our behalf.

Marlene Froese



Participating in a recent baptism and membership transfer are James Friesen, Cornelius Neufeld, Dave Klassen (transfer), Pastor George Remple, Norma Neufeld, Nancy Peters, Christina Froese, Cathy Fehr, Christina Berg and Mary Harms.

High school graduates honoured

Abbeydale (Calgary, Alta.): On June 26 Abbeydale Christian Fellowship friends and relatives celebrated the high school graduation of our youth. They all graduated from different schools and this event is chance for them to celebrate together with their church family. We enjoyed a lunch as MC Trevor Bueckert shared about some of the antics they will be remembered for and presented each one with a unique memento. Each grad was also given opportunity to tell us of their future plans. Well done, grads, and may you be blessed as you press on to achieve your goals!

Brenda Dick



Abbeydale's 2004 graduates: Shanon Plett, Russell Dick, Alicia Kornelson, JoLynne Enns, Jason Teske, Raymond Fehr, Brock Reimer, Janelle Dueck and Leon Koop.



Dave K. Schellenberg

From Russia, with Love

Thirteen-year-old Anna Friesen lived in Russia in 1907. About 20 years before, many of her family had joined the German Mennonite migrations of 1874–1875 to North America. With some of her family elsewhere, Anna wrote.

Here is what she wrote to her cousin Susanna. Her two letters provide a glimpse into family and other general happenings.

Letters from Russia are not rare. However, what makes these unique is that the writer is a teenager likely writing to her teenaged cousin in Canada. This gives us a glimpse into the teenager's world in Russia at the time.

The letter is slightly edited—some of the references are obscure and have been removed.

Karochan, February 3, 1907

Dear Cousin Susanna, I am writing a letter to you. I no longer attend school. I am now 13 years old. On July 22 I will be 14. When is your birthday?

Last year I wrote examinations. The Russian exam was on the 15th and the German on the 20th of April. For Christmas I got a dress.

We had many watermelons this year. We made four pails of syrup and we ate fresh watermelon to November 1. On October 30 we slaughtered a cow and November 1 we slaughtered pigs. There is much snow here now. In the ditch there are already drifts. On January 8 there was a blizzard.

In my last year of school we had the teachers Teacher Voth and Teacher Toews. Now there are Teacher Voth and Teacher Wiebe.

We made preserve of 80 watermelons and also *Bucklazhoni* (tomatoes). On Thursday, February 1, our first cow calved.

Katherina received a violin and two combs for Christmas. Maria got a guitar and two combs.

We had many flowers in the garden this year. Here at the end of the house we had bright red ones. I also had sown some flowers, including Lionsmouth and Middayflowers. Carrots we received a good crop. We have eight walnut trees. They had 70 nuts this fall.

Today is February 4. I just came from Sunday school. Today was the last Sunday school. Next Sunday, instruction class (*Unterricht*) starts.

Do you know how many cents are in a Kopeck? Then write and tell me. Hearty greetings from your cousin Anna Friesen.

Korachan, October 30, 1911

Dear Cousin:

I want to write a letter once more. We got your letter but I didn't read it because I was in Montau at Towes'. I take *Stunden* there and when I came home it was lost and we still haven't found it. Please write again so that I can read it. Or don't you like to write anymore?

On Friday we slaughtered four pigs. Each was 11 *Pud* [176 kgs], 5 *phund*. Then we were very busy. For two weeks I have already helped Jacob and Anna Friesen prepare for their

slaughtering as well as helped while slaughtering. Now at last all is finished.

We looked at a portrait today. And I thought that from you I would never see one, especially from my cousins. I know few of them.

Uncle Peter Friesen from Sagradowka was here this fall. He asked us when we write to ask if Jakob Friesens, Toews and Thiessens live there or if you have their address then to send it. If you don't know it maybe your parents know it.

Our Susanna and Tomas where in Sagradowka this fall and learned to know all their relatives.

Last winter it was very cold here. The apricot trees nearly all froze. Of fruit there was little. But we had dried a whole lot last year and so there is enough also for this winter.

We are just now reading from grandfather's letters. Have you also seen him, or don't you know him anymore?

It is now Sunday night. Our Katrina and Maria have gone visiting. For my birthday I received a Forgetmenot, a sugar box, a glass one, from Abraham Friesens, a *Maerchenbuechlein* (Fairy Tales) and seven cards.

Please send me the year and date when you where born then I want to record it. Have you ever written to Peter Bergens' Anna that she should write me? Since we don't know each other at least we could write each other.

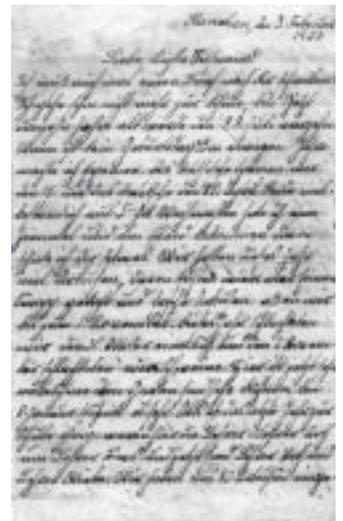
My brothers don't write much either. We received a letter from Hans on Friday. He hadn't written for almost a year. He lives in Sarangard, Siberia. Peter also lives there. His children sometimes write so that we know whether they still are alive or not. I guess Peter Bergens and Kornelius Fasts live a long way from you. Or is someone close to you?

I am going to make myself a white apron.

What are you doing out there? Does Anna still go to school? I guess you are not going anymore. Here it was a very pleasant day today. I and Katarina went out in the field and after *Vesper* I had guests.

Last Sunday there was a funeral here. A small boy of about one year had died. Here in the mill a Mr. Wiens was killed while putting on a belt. He suffered the tearing off of one arm and one leg. This happened below in the basement. He was brought up, but he died right away.

Now at last I have written enough. You will get tired of reading it when I write so much. Please write back soon. Mama also wants to write. Hearty greetings to all from your cousin, Anna Friesen. ❧



Connie: We had to be there for our son

As we sat with Connie and her husband Roland and family members near a surgery suite in Winnipeg's Children's Hospital, I was reminded of the testimony she had given during our Deeper Life Services about six months ago.

"I have been wondering if suffering has been a road block in my life. Sometimes it sure has felt like it," she began, then quoted Romans 5:3-5, ending with "And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us."

"In 1991, the Lord blessed us with a healthy baby boy. We had a lot of fun watching him grow and develop as most other children do. He enjoyed doing 24-piece puzzles at two years old and keeping his books very organized. He still loves books to this day."

However, when Casey was two and a half, his life and theirs changed forever. After a visit to their family doctor, and difficult tests after they rushed to Children's Hospital in Winnipeg, they received several devastating blows in quick succession: Casey had advanced leukemia; he probably had two months to live if no treatments were done; the treatments would cause some brain damage because he was not yet three when brain development is complete.

"I can't remember thinking much about praying at that time," Connie admitted. "All I knew was that we had to be there for our son."

And that would be very difficult. All they could do was watch helplessly as, on the other side of the window, their golden-haired little boy lay alone on a big table in a cold room for his treatments.

"By now we knew that there were a lot of people praying for us. ...We have said many times that we could feel that we were being carried by prayer. This is an awesome feeling, to have the Lord carry me, when I have no control...."

"I remember the doctors telling us at the beginning of this all, that the only way to get through this, was by taking one day at a time. I thought, 'That's easy for you to say.' This was how I learned to see that God only gives us strength when we need it, and only for today, not tomorrow...."

Casey's treatment plan was to go on for about three and a half years. After he had been on treatment for one year, the treatments became less often. This was when Michael was born.

"I thought, now things should start getting easier. Maybe we could start a new schedule at home again.

"But little did I realize that this was when I would break down and not cope well. Casey's hospitalizations were more often than before, his body was very weak and run down, his immune system was low. He got pneumonia numerous times, as well as pancreatitis and many other infections.

"Now I also had a baby to take with me. I felt like I had

fallen into a deep hole and could not reach the top to get out. I kept on starting to reach for the top, but before I could get a grip, I would slide back in. I would get up in the mornings and I would feel just as tired as when I had gone to bed.

"Okay, Lord, where are you now? This isn't me; I have always been able to cope. What's happening to me?"

"With the help of the doctor as well as family and friends, I eventually got my strength back again. I remembered again that God had been faithful even when I couldn't understand it.

"When Michael was two, we started seeing how he was developing beyond Casey. This of course meant that Casey wasn't advancing, and that was very hard to watch.

"Michael has been a blessing in our home very many times, and has brought great joy to Casey as well as to us."

a woman's journey of faith



Betty Koop

When Casey was nine years old, they started seeing some more regression. He was put on seizure medication to try to control his symptoms.

The damage to Casey's body turned out to be much worse than the doctors had expected. After many years of research, their oncologist found that Casey had been born with another condition, which had adversely affected the cancer treatments.

Connie said sadly, but honestly, "I could get very frustrated and angry about this, but I want to continue to trust the Lord and believe that He will continue to guide us through day after day."

Although Connie wished to have another child, she was afraid due to the difficult circumstances.

Then, seven and a half years after Michael was born, they had a baby girl! Jazmyn is a big blessing in their home and her brothers love her a lot.

Connie ended by again expressing thanks for support and help they had received from family, friends and church.

Casey's condition continued to deteriorate and further tests found three tumours growing in his brain. So that is how we came to be sitting with them while surgery was being done to remove at least one of the tumours to relieve increased pressure on his brain. We were a somber group, as we waited and chatted and silently prayed.

The surgery turned out well in that Casey is functioning better than prior to the operation. But the sad news was that they could not remove the other two growths. Further treatments seemed risky, considering the damage that had already been done. Only the Lord knows how much longer Casey will be with them, but the doctors do not promise much time.

Let us pray for this courageous mother and father as they daily seek to entrust Casey to God's tender care. ❧



**Martha Penner
1922-2004**

I, Martha Penner, was born to George and Lena Bartel on October 25, 1922 in Rosenhoff (now Riverside) about five miles northwest of the town of Morris. Due to our parents' upbringing, I came to be a Christian in my younger years—but only later received the assurance of salvation through 1 John 1:9. I was baptized and accepted into the Kleinegemeinde church (now EMC), by Bishop Jacob B. Kroeker, on June 30, 1940.

Upon Mother's encouragement, I did some housework in our neighbourhood. During the flood of 1950, being evacuated to Lowe Farm, I helped my Auntie get breakfast for the many people also having come there for refuge from the flood, plus the men who came in from working in the flood area. Dad's brother eventually took me and my parents to Kleefeld. Later I went to help out at the Steinbach Invalid Home.

In 1956, together with Justina Brandt, I went to Mexico where the Cornie Loewens had opened a clinic. I came home in late 1959 for a furlough. When my Dad passed away in 1960, I stayed home to be with Mother. During those years, I worked at the Eventide Home as a part-time nurse's aid.

In 1974, Abram C. L. Penner called and asked me to join him in marriage. Since our church had burned down, Abe's brothers and sisters invited us to have our wedding in Blumenort Church. We were married on July 20, 1974.

Then I moved to Arborg. Abram's four children and 12 grandchildren adopted me as mother and grandmother. The children were: Menno (now deceased) and Mary, Tina and Ronald, Gertie and Arnold, and Janice and Jerry. Our married life was too short. In March 1983, my dear husband passed away of a massive heart attack. After living in Arborg for seven years, I moved to Steinbach, into the Parkview Apartments.

Martha Penner

The Penner family adds: Mother enjoyed relatively good health, except for her spleen condition. This affected her blood quite seriously. The doctors performed spleen surgery in 2000. She slowly recovered, but had previously been diagnosed with polysithemia in 1976. In spite of that, she was actively involved in the sewing circle. She sewed blanket tops for MCC, helped out at the thrift shop, and made quilts for the children and grandchildren. She also knit baby caps and bootie sets for the hospital. She took great interest in her family, remembering each one with a birthday or anniversary card almost to the last moment. Her interest in missions took great priority. This was made evident by the letters she wrote to missionaries, and the time she spent praying for them. Bible studies and devotional times were also taken seriously.

On April 10, Mom was admitted into Bethesda Hospital. After many tests, she was diagnosed with acute leukemia. She did not become depressed when the doctor told her she might have only one month to live. Rather, she eagerly looked forward to meeting the Saviour and to being reunited with her husband.

She leaves to grieve her departure her family, Mary Penner, Tina and Ronald Plett, Gertie and Arnold Brandt, Janice and Jerry Reimer, 27 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren, one sister Helen and husband Ben Kroeker, one brother Jake and wife Tina Bartel, one sister-in-law Nettie Bartel, many nieces and nephews, an adoptive refugee family, friends and relatives. Her husband Abram C. L. Penner and son Menno, her parents and one brother, Abe, predeceased her. Our loss is her gain.

Her Family

Register now for 2004
Phone 204-326-6451

Steinbach Bible College **Evening and weekend courses**

Holistic Counselling
Professor Harvey Plett
There is much evidence that what we think affects us physically as well as spiritually. "It's All in the Head" is a course that will examine the psychosomatic phenomena and its relationship to counselling.
Oct. 14-16 Thursday and Friday, 7-10 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
1 credit hour or audit

Introduction to the New Testament
Professor Arden Thiessen
An introductory study of the historical and geographic background of the New Testament and an overview of each book within the New Testament.
October 15-16 Fridays, 7-10 p.m.
November 5-6 and 26-27 Saturdays, 9 a.m.-12 noon
January 7-8 and 28-29 3 credit hours or audit

weddings

FROESE - THIESSEN: Johnny, son of David and Anna Froese of Aylmer, Ont., and Emerald, daughter of Jake and Debbie Thiessen of Aylmer, Ont., were married on February 28, 2004, in St. Thomas, Ont., with Jake Heinrichs of Manitoba officiating. The couple lives in Aylmer.

ROBINSON - BECKER: Adam Robinson and Karen Becker were married on May 29, 2004, at Home Street Mennonite Church, with Pauline Steinmann officiating. The couple lives in Winnipeg, Man.

DOERKSEN - WIEBE: Chris Doerksen and Stephanie Wiebe were married on June 5, 2004, in Grande Prairie, Alta.

STRAUB - SELBY: Trevor, son of Barry and Sharron Straub of St. Francois-Xavier, Man., and Sheila Selby were married on June 19, 2004, at Crestview Fellowship, with Vern Knutson, of Winnipeg, Man., officiating. The couple lives in Winnipeg.

HIEBERT - ARPIN: Matthew, son of Nettie Hiebert, and Rachelle, daughter of Gene and Christy Arpin, were married on July 3, 2004, at St. Vital EMC, with Pastor Al Friesen officiating. The couple lives in St. Norbert, Man.

SOUTHEASTERN MANITOBA

Christian Education Convention

"Teaching for
Spiritual Growth"
with Dr. Peggy Dorman

October 15-16, 2004

Providence College and
Theological Seminary
Otterburne, Manitoba

Phone: 204-433-7488 Ext. 258
email: gayle.penner@prov.ca

Presented by SEMCEC



**Henry Bruce (Hank) Mercer
1937-2004**

Hank was born May 28, 1937, in Orillia, Ont. He left home at age 16 to find work in Toronto. He met Marilyn on a blind date and they were married nine months later, on June 1, 1957, in Mimico, Ont. After working in the dairy business in Guelph, Ont., they went into business for themselves in Fergus, Ont.

The west began to call to him after his daughter and new son-in-law moved to Grand Prairie, Alta., and Marilyn had enjoyed two years of her childhood in Yorkton, Sask., and had always wanted to go back, so in 1983 they sold their business and settled in Calgary.

One summer day in 1999 they walked past the Abbeydale church and although they had not attended church in a long time they joined in a Stampede Breakfast. They returned for a regular service and as they joined the worship and for the first time in a long time felt they were at home. They were baptized on June 11,

2000. Hank loved Abbeydale Christian Fellowship and enjoyed greeting people at the front door. He experienced great joy in helping to construct the addition to the church building and making friends during that effort.

Hank cared deeply about other people as well. His generous nature welcomed everyone into his heart and his home. He was grateful for the opportunity to be involved in *The Mustard Seed* ministry, a Calgary charity for whom he helped coordinate Abbeydale Christian Fellowship's contribution. They viewed this as doing God's work. A few weeks after his death Marilyn went to help serve a meal there and said she could feel Hank's excitement and approval as she watched homeless Calgarians enjoy the meal ACF had provided.

Their home, which they laughingly dubbed Mercers Motel, was further proof of their gift of generous hospitality. Hank lent money to those who needed it, never expecting repayment; honesty and truthfulness were trademarks of his life, even when it cost him. He went out of his way for people and made them feel comfortable. Hank loved people, all of them.

The ministry of our favourite clowns, Sunbeam (Marilyn) and Moonbeam (Hank), brought smiles and laughter to people of all ages. To know Hank was to love him and we all remember his wonderful sense of humour and how easily he could turn a joke onto himself if he thought it would make someone smile.

Hank and Marilyn worked together,

side by side making a life together for close to 50 years.

Many of these ventures were family affairs. They eventually went into Real Estate working with their son. They had just become brokers for Westward Mortgage when Hank passed away.

His family mattered more to Hank than anything else. He cared about their lives and his unique relationship with each one. He was an optimist, firmly believing and teaching that his children and their children could be all that they wanted to be.

Their children summarized their parents' marriage by saying, "They lived well, laughed often, loved much; truly best friends, they completed each other." Their commitment to each other, the joy and the laughter they brought into their marriage was obvious to everyone. Hank demonstrated his love in such simple ways as bringing Marilyn her morning coffee and by secretly carving out heart-shaped garden beds to surprise her.

Hank passed away suddenly at home on April 21, 2004. Besides his loving wife, Marilyn, Hank is survived by a son, David and his wife Eileen; daughters Lori Noble Milne and her husband David, and Dawn Hellum and her husband Peter; along with eight grandchildren, Brandon, Hayley, Troy, Lindsay, Jeff, Jarrod, Caitlin and Sandra.

He is also survived by two brothers, Jack and Ray, a sister Joy and their families. He was predeceased by his sister Phyllis, brother Leonard and son-in-law Paul.

His Family

births

WIEBE – to Phil and Tina Wiebe of Aylmer, Ont., a daughter, Nina Simone Isabella, on September 19, 2003.

DYCK – to David and Anna Dyck of Ruthven, Ont., a daughter, Sabrina Rose, on April 4, 2004.

FROESE – to Abe and Elizabeth Froese of Clairmont, Alta., a daughter, Adrianna Kate, on May 19, 2004.

KRAHN – to Ben and Lena Krahn of Aylmer, Ont., a daughter, Kendra Maree, on May 26, 2004.

FIELD – to Tim and Matilda Field of Steinbach, Man., a son, Benjamin James, on June 6, 2004.

GUENTHER – to John and Susie Guenther of Aylmer, Ont., a son, Hayden Joaby, on June 16, 2004.

COUSINS – to Candace and Mike Cousins of Winnipeg, Man., a son, Sebastian John, on June 18, 2004.

JASPERS-FAYER – to Brian and Carolyn Jaspers-Fayer of Grande Prairie, Alta., a daughter, Emily Adelle, on June 24, 2004.

MARTENS – to Rick and Helen Martens of Leamington, Ont., a son, Bradley James, on June 25, 2004.

THIESSEN – to Chuck and Laura Thiessen of Winnipeg, Man., a daughter, Jayden Reign, on July 1, 2004.

FEHR – to Pete and Cindy Fehr of High Level, Alta., a son, Seth Jacob, on July 6, 2004.

WEBER – to Steve and Lori Weber of Arnes, Man., a daughter, Emma Renae, on July 8, 2004.

DYCK – to Jake and Christyn Dyck of Arborg, Man., a daughter, Natasha Anneliese Mae, on July 12, 2004.

BUECKERT – to Geff and Betty Ann Bueckert of High Level, Alta., a daughter, Samantha Lynn, on July 13, 2004.

PETERS – to Pete and Mary Peters of Aylmer, Ont., a son, Ethan Matthew, on July 16, 2004.

GRIFT – to Tony and Kathleen Grift of Anola, Man., a son, Anthony Jacob, on July 22, 2004.

Come and celebrate 
SBC's Grand Opening
Sunday, October 3, 2004, 3:00 p.m.

Tour the new facility
Connect with former classmates
and friends
Join us for a program and
refreshments

**We would love to see all our alumni
and supporters at this event.**



shoulder tapping

Menville EMC, a rural church near Riverton, Man., seeks a **half-time youth leader/pastor** to give spiritual leadership and be a program director for a youth group of approximately 25 to 30. Call for information or send resume to Kenton Barkman, Box 576, Riverton, MB ROC 2R0. Phone 204-378-5623 or e-mail kenton@mts.net.

The Archives Committee, under the EMC Board of Church Ministries, seeks a **part-time volunteer archivist** to work out of the Steinbach, Man., office. Tasks involve the organizing, filing and tracking of historical materials within the vault and over-flow areas in the building. Assets are an interest in history and a skill or willingness to operate a computer database; an exceptional asset would be the ability to read German. For information, contact executive secretary Terry Smith at 204-326-6401 or emcmessenger@mts.net.

Endeavour Fellowship Chapel (EMC), a warm, friendly congregation with 50 to 60 in attendance on Sunday morning, seeks a **pastor**. It is located in a small town/rural part of east-central Saskatchewan, between Yorkton and Hudson Bay.

The church is flexible in standards for both candidate education and experience. As an evangelical church in town, it serves a wide range of people. Contact chairman of elders Neil Fenske at 306-547-4738 or Box 263, Endeavour, SK S0A 0W0.

Pelly Fellowship Chapel (EMC) is looking for a **full-time lead pastor**. Pelly is a small rural community (300 people) in east-central Saskatchewan. The congregation averages 40 on Sunday mornings and is the only evangelical church in the community.

Please forward your resume or questions to the search committee by mail at Box 70, Pelly, SK S0A 2Z0 or phone Eugene Prokott at 306-595-2287, Lewis Anfinson at 306-594-2151, or e-mail woodlandsigns@sasktel.net.

MDS workers are needed! Canadian volunteers, remember to connect with the MDS office in Winnipeg prior to making service arrangements directly with an MDS project. This will ensure that you receive a border crossing letter, travel assistance/receipting details and other important MDS information. Extension office: 866-261-1274.

Braeside EMC in Winnipeg, Man., is seeking a **full-time associate pastor of Spanish ministries**. The applicant should be familiar with the Anabaptist perspective and willing to be guided by the EMC statement of faith. Responsibilities to include: pastoral care, teaching, and outreach. The Spanish part of the Braeside congregation has an average attendance of 60 people.

Please forward your resume and references to Braeside Evangelical Mennonite Church, Attn: Spanish Ministry Search Committee, 1011 Munroe Ave., Winnipeg, MB R2K 1J7.

Program officer(s) are required in Nuevos Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico. This is a MCC voluntary position for a two- or three-year term. For information contact the MCC Canada office at 204-261-6381 and ask for Marsha Jones or Mary Friesen. See web site for details: www.mcc.org/getinv.html (Service Opportunity of the Month).

Inner City Youth Alive is an organization in the North End of Winnipeg, Man., that reaches youth and their families in the community. It seeks a **program director** that should possess pastoral gifts and be ready to support and encourage the staff team. Phone: 204-582-8779. E-mail: icya@mts.net. Website: www.innercityyouthalive.org.

Riverton Gospel Chapel (EMC), a small rural town in Manitoba's Interlake, seeks a loving **leading pastor**. Housing is included in the salary package. This friendly and loving congregation has an average attendance of 75-100, with a high percentage of young families. The area has good schools.

Contact Paul Peters, board chair, by mail: Box 356, Riverton, MB ROC 2R0, by e-mail: paul@vidir.com, or by phone: 204-378-2740 (home), 204-364-2442 (work).

Urgent: **English teacher** needed immediately for a small school in the northern part of Mexico. The school is under CMM Mission. The applicant should be single, as couples accommodation is not available. The applicant must be willing to adapt to a different culture. Contact: Hans Friesen, P.O. Box 752, Santa Teresa, New Mexico, 88008-0752; Ph. 01-152-636-699-3177.

MCC Central States **executive director** is sought to provide vision and oversight for all programs. Familiarity with constituency, strong relational and administrative skills, and cultural competency required. Experience with budgeting, administration, Spanish language skills preferred. Women and people of colour are encouraged to apply. Significant travel time within the United States.

Contact Charmayne Brubaker, 717-859-1151, cdb@mcc.org, or your nearest MCC office for a job description. Application review begins now. Position available January 1, 2005, or sooner.

MCC Canada seeks applications for half-time positions of **coordinator of aboriginal work** (Winnipeg preferred), **refugee program coordinator** (Winnipeg preferred), and **domestic policy analyst** (Ottawa). The positions can be

combined and based in Ottawa or Winnipeg. All MCC workers are expected to exhibit a commitment to a personal Christian faith and discipleship, active church membership, and nonviolent peacemaking. Contact Marsha Jones, phone 204-261-6381; e-mail: mgj@mennonitecc.ca.

Mennonite Foundation of Canada seeks a **full-time stewardship consultant** to manage its new Calgary office and promote Biblical stewardship in Alberta. MFC is a charitable foundation serving seven Anabaptist church conferences across Canada.

Candidates should communicate well in group settings and with individuals; understand charitable gift and estate planning; be creative, organized, and self-motivated; support our stewardship mission; contribute as part of our staff team; and be a member of a participating conference.

Apply by October 23, 2004, to Robert Veitch, General Manager, 12-1325 Markham Rd., Winnipeg, MB R3T 4J6, phone 1-800-772-3257, fax: 204-488-1986, e-mail: rveitch@mennofoundation.ca, www.mennofoundation.ca.

La Crete Christian Fellowship seeks a **full-time youth pastor**, an energetic leader with vision who has a genuine love and passion to reach out to young people and the ability to be a partner with us to build a strong ministry with the young people in our congregation and community.

Join dedicated parents and adults eager to be led and students ready to grow and learn. This person will work primarily with high school and junior youth, and also with children's ministry. We're eager to incorporate new ideas and capitalize on the gifts and talents of our youth pastor.

This person should have some understanding and respect for EMC theology, diversity, and traditions. There is a generous salary, health insurance, and a new house to live in. La Crete is located in beautiful northern Alberta, eight hours north of Edmonton. To find out more about La Crete and the church, see www.lacretechamber.com; www.telusplanet.net/public/lccfc; e-mail: lccfc@telus.net or lfem@telus.net; phone: Frank Winsor at LCCF, 780-928-3783.

Church Treasurers, Finance Committees, Church Leaders Seminars

Date: Saturday, October 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Aylmer EMMC in Ontario. Saturday, October 30, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Morrow Gospel Church, 755 Ste. Anne's Road, Winnipeg, Man.

\$25 registration fee to help cover speakers, facilities, noon meal and refreshments.

Topics include:

- Regulatory and legislative updates for charitable organizations
- Incorporation and liability issues for churches
- Church accounting, budgeting and reporting
- Church accounting software and applications for effective financial reporting

Pre-registration is requested. Please contact Len Barkman or Ruth Anne Peters at the EM Conference office, 204-326-6401.

These seminars are sponsored jointly by Evangelical Mennonite Conference, Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference, Chortitzer Mennonite Conference, and Mennonite Foundation of Canada.



Loreena Thiessen

THE BOULDER

Long ago a king wanted to test his subjects. He wanted to see who would be willing to make an extra effort to solve a simple problem. The King placed a huge boulder in a busy roadway. Then he hid in the bushes nearby to watch if anyone would remove it.

Wealthy merchants (men in the business of buying and selling goods) and courtiers (men from the king's court) came by on the road. Each one walked around the boulder. They blamed the King for the blocked road.

"Why doesn't the king order someone to clear the road?" they said. But not one of the travellers touched the boulder.

After awhile a peasant (a farmer) came along in a horse-drawn cart filled with vegetables which he was taking to the market. The boulder blocked his way.

"Whoa!" the peasant said to his horse. His horse stopped and he jumped down and approached the boulder. The boulder was heavy. The peasant strained to push the boulder out of the road. After much effort he was able to roll the boulder to the side of the road. Now the way was clear for him to pass.

The peasant turned to walk back to his vegetable cart to continue his journey. As he walked he brushed the dust from his hands. He glanced once more at the spot where the boulder had been. He noticed that something was lying in the very spot where the boulder had just been. Quickly the peasant ran over to it. It was a purse.

The peasant opened the purse; in it he found many gold coins. In addition to the gold coins there was a note from the king.

"This money is for the person who removes the boulder from the roadway," the note said.

The peasant learned an important lesson: Something that is an obstacle or a problem can become an opportunity that turns into a blessing.

James says, if you know what is the right thing to do, do it; you will be rewarded. Read James 4:17, and Matthew 6:6. 

Pressed Flower Paperweight

You need:

- a large rock with a smooth surface
- decoupage solution (eg. Aleen's Instant Decoupage)
- pressed flowers and leaves
- foam brush

Instructions:

Press the flowers between newspaper pages or tissue paper and weight the pages down with heavy books. Let them press for several days. Wash the rock thoroughly. Coat the rock with a layer of decoupage solution. Arrange the pressed dried flowers and leaves on a flat surface of the rock. Coat over the flowers with the solution. Let dry. Give the entire rock two or three more coats, drying between coats.



Churches, plan to send your youth leaders!

EMC youth leader retreat

Consistent Ministry in Changing Community

October 15-17, 2004
Pinawa, Manitoba

Seminars

- Kids and Depression – Irma Janzen
- Homosexuality – Awln Davison
- Volunteer Training – Jim Harms
- Contemplative Worship – Mo Friesen, Tim Gibbons
- Discipline – Amos Fehr
- Contact Ministry – Nathan Plett
- Missions – Gerald Reimer
- Evangelism – Bryon Bezanson



Speaker Jim Harms
Director, Youth for Christ, Steinbach

Sessions include a look into the lives of Joshua and Caleb and their pursuit of God, Joseph and his commitment to a faithful lifestyle, and the power of God displayed in the life of Peter.

Fees: \$105 per person, with travel subsidy available on request.